

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A tyre adapted to be fitted onto a wheel rim designed for pneumatic tyres, the wheel rim having a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, the tyre comprising a radially inner portion engagable with the wheel rim to be supportingly received thereon, the radially inner portion comprising a band adapted to be releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of the wheel rim by being welded thereto.
2. (Previously Presented) A tyre according to claim 1 wherein the band comprises a rigid band of fixed diameter.
3. (Previously Presented) A tyre according to claim 2 wherein the rigid band comprises a metal band.
4. (Currently Amended) A tyre according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ further comprising a cushioning structure provided on the band.
5. (Original) A tyre according to claim 4 wherein the cushioning structure comprises a resiliently deformable body bonded onto the band.
6. (Original) A tyre according to claim 5 wherein the resiliently deformable body incorporates a plurality of cavities separated by load-supporting walls.
7. (Currently Amended) A tyre according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein the resiliently deformable body comprises a unitary mass.
8. (Currently Amended) A tyre according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein the resiliently deformable body is of composite construction comprising a plurality of layers of material having different characteristics.

9. (Original) A tyre according to claim 8 wherein the body comprises an inner layer of higher resilience for cushioning, and an outer layer which is harder and more durable to provide good wear characteristics.

10. (Previously Presented) A combination of a wheel rim and a tyre, the wheel rim comprising a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, and the tyre comprising a radially inner portion engagable with the wheel rim to be supportingly received thereon the radially inner portion comprising a band adapted to be releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of the wheel rim by being welded thereto.

11. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 10 wherein the band comprises a metal band of fixed diameter.

12. (Original) A combination according to claim 11 wherein the welding comprises welding, at circumferentially spaced intervals around the band.

13. (Previously Presented) A wheel rim and tyre assembly, wherein the wheel rim comprises a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, and wherein the tyre comprises a radially inner portion engaged with the wheel rim, the radially inner portion comprising a rigid band supportingly received on, and releasably fixed with respect to, the outer periphery of the wheel rim, the band being releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of the wheel rim by being welded thereto.

14. (Previously Presented) A wheel rim and tyre assembly according to claim 13 wherein the band comprises a metal band of fixed diameter.

15. (Original) A wheel rim and tyre assembly according to claim 14 wherein the welding comprises welding at circumferentially spaced intervals around the band.

16. - 18. (Cancelled)